



Safety Advice 02-2007 (NZ)

February 2007 – Lifting Lug Failure – Near Miss

A new oil filled 100kVA transformer weighing approximately 1100kg delivered to a workshop was being prepared for installation. In preparation for fit-out the transformer was rigged for lifting by workshop overhead crane from floor to workbench level. Lifting chains were attached to the four lifting lugs fitted to the transformer. As the lift commenced and when the load was at a height of about 450mm above floor level one of the transformer lifting lugs failed, causing the lifting chain leg to fling free, very close to the head of the employee carrying out the lift operation.

Subsequent inspection revealed that two of the four transformer lifting lugs were tack-welded to the transformer. A report was made to the supplier who initiated an investigation and corrective action including review of quality control associated with this aspect of transformer construction.

Relevant Items for Consideration

- Suppliers and their customers may benefit by checking construction / welding procedures to ensure lifting lug attachment specifications are being met and to check that quality control captures this aspect of heavy equipment construction adequately.
- Employers and their staff may benefit by informing employees involved in lifting operations to check, in the course of the standard checks required for lifting operations, that there are no obvious lifting lug defects before rigging for heavy equipment lifts. Employees should know how to report any defects or other problems or concerns associated with any aspect of lift attachment points or lift equipment.